

ATTACHMENT 4.12(d): State's Strategies and Use of Title I funds for Innovation and Expansion Activities.

- a) Description of strategies for the use of assistive technology services and devices at each stage of the rehabilitation process and how such services will be provided to individuals with disabilities on a statewide basis.**

Pursuant to the Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services Policy Manual, the counselor reviews the need by the customer for assistive technology devices and services at each stage of the rehabilitation process, i.e. eligibility determination, plan development and implementation, and placement. This is done through personal interviews with the customer and significant others, assessments of the various support requirements of the individual, and through observation. Indiana maintains and updates, annually, a vendor list for staff and customers to utilize as they identify assistive technology needs, i.e. seating and positioning assessment providers, vehicle modification vendors, etc. Indiana also maintains a close working relationship with the assistive technology project, ATTAIn, which is working toward statewide systems change in many areas of assistive technology devices and services, including timely access to services, a comprehensive assessment of all technology needs in various settings, and funding for assistive technology devices and services.

- b) Plans for the establishment, development, or improvement of community rehabilitation programs**

Indiana is currently involved in collaborative activities with community rehabilitation programs across the state. VRS will continue two statewide projects which provide support to community rehabilitation programs in the state. The first, the Indiana Employment Initiative, continues the systems change efforts which started with a federal grant and have since been continued through local matching funds. The Indiana University, Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities has staff which support the CRP's in each of the VRS five regions in their conversion to community based services and employment outcomes. The second initiative, the Supported Employment Consultation and Training Center, is a project funded jointly by the Division of Mental Health and VRS to support community mental health centers in the provision of employment

services, especially employment services, for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

In addition to the above, VRS is working collaboratively with the IN-ARF and IN-ARC association to provide joint training to VRS and CRP staff in the provision of community based, integrated, competitive employment. This includes funding of a federally supported consultant who will be providing training in local communities. Indiana also is involved in the University of Wisconsin - Stout CRP training efforts.

Indiana VRS has a grant program that is available to the community rehabilitation programs in the states as they identify programs which support competitive, integrated employment outcomes.

c) Initiatives to improve the performance of the State with respect to the evaluation standards and performance indicators

Indiana has recently embarked upon a program redesign initiative which has the goal to improve customer services, a.k.a. employment outcomes. Working with current and former customers of the VR programs, there are four specific components to the redesign: a) Easy Access/Quick Services; b) Choice/Self Determination; c) Seamless Services; and, d) Employment. The plans for each of the components include such things as a "fast track" for customers; and inclusion of customer satisfaction data into staff performance evaluations; provision of more vendor options as customers pursue employment services; development of a resource document which will assist customers in accessing various services in a community; pursuit of a federal projects with industry grant to improve employer relations; investigation of the use of temporary employment services and a general improvement in the way customers receive VR services in Indiana. Once the performance indicators are published, Indiana will review existing plans to ensure the identified initiative address the expected outcomes.

d) Efforts to assist other components of the Statewide workforce investment system in assisting individuals with disabilities pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(d)(I), (iii), (iv, and (v) of the Act.

Indiana is intimately involved at both a state and local level with the Workforce Investment System, i.e. the Workforce Investment Boards. Memorandums of Understandings are currently under development which specify the activities which VR will undertake to assist individuals with disabilities to access other components of the workforce investment system.